JEFFERSON PUBLIC CITIZENS

Milton Adams
The Challenge

- Jefferson’s goal for education: Educate the citizenry to ensure their freedom. “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”
- Students seek stronger connections of public service and citizen leadership to academic life.
- U.Va. will establish a comprehensive academic public service program that integrates students’ service and research experiences throughout their time at the University.
In their 1st and 2nd years, students will be able to:

- take new courses that address: major public issues; Jefferson, education, and democracy, and; communicating with public audiences;
- participate in workshops and programs that address ethics of community engagement, cultural competency, multiculturalism and diversity;
- track their service and cultural activities in an interactive database and website.

At the end of their 2nd year, eligible students will apply for admission to the Jefferson Public Citizens (JPC) program by submitting a portfolio comprised of relevant academic and service experiences and a proposal for a research and service team project.
The Initiative –
Jefferson Public Citizens

- JPC Projects will:
  - require a student to lead a research-driven, service team activity to address a documented community need or social problem;
  - establish a hypothesis based in an academic discipline, study best practices, collect data, propose solutions, and, when appropriate, implement them;
  - work with a community;
  - take place locally, nationally, and internationally;
  - be advised by a faculty member.

- JPC students will present their findings in Public, a journal published by U.Va. students, and at U.Va. Public Citizens, an annual conference.
Comprehensive to Capstone - Jefferson Public Citizens

- Service and Citizenship Experience
- JPC Academic Courses
- JPC Team Projects
One-Year Progress

- Enroll 250 students in new courses (e.g., academic community engagement, major public issues, Jefferson and education, and communicating with public audiences).
- Establish training workshops and seminars with at least 20 faculty members and 100 students engaged.
- Develop a database and website for undergraduate students to track co-curricular service and leadership activities.
- Design an alumni survey to compare JPC graduates to previous survey respondents.
- Launch JPC program that engages faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
- Admit 20 team project leaders to inaugural JPC class (5 students per team = 100 students).
Three-Year Metrics

- Over 2,100 students enrolled in JPC related courses and 160 students engaged in JPC team projects.
- JPC students receive prestigious national fellowships, awards and scholarships due to their work in program.
- Statistically significant increase in NSSE scores for
  - “Participated in a community-based project (e.g. service learning) as part of a regular course”
  - “Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework”
  - “Culminating senior experience”
- Attain Carnegie Foundation’s elective Community Engagement Classification.
- Increase visibility and reputation as measured by publications, citations, funding, and peer inquiry.
Further Distinguishing the University

- Provide the best undergraduate experience at a preeminent research university.
- Deepen learning by application, inquiry, and public presentation.
- Uphold Jefferson’s purpose to produce educated citizens who will serve the nation.

"Knowing is not enough; We must Apply. Willing is not enough; We must Do."
-- Goethe (1749-1832)